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ABSTRACT

The methodology that has been used over the past 5 years to develop and implement the Parent Survey of the Department of Defense Dependents' Schools (DoDDS), known as the "Report Card from DoDDS Parents," is described. The focus is not on survey results, but on the processes and procedures used to design appropriate instruments, distribute and track the surveys on a large scale, and report findings to key players in the school system. DoDDS, an overseas school system that educates children of military personnel, educated nearly 85,000 students in 1995. The Report Card allows parents the opportunity to express their opinions about the quality of the curriculum, faculty, administration, and auxiliary services. Surveys are distributed to parents of all children, with followup reminders as needed to assure at least a 60% return rate. Data analyses are conducted to summarize survey results and to produce databases that generate frequency distributions of all survey item responses. School administrators and staff at all levels review the results and identify areas to be addressed in future program development. The program's success has depended on the involvement of key players, easy-to-complete survey instruments, widespread publicity, and effective reporting of findings to parents as well as schools. Appendix A contains a sample report card, and Appendix B is a sample survey findings report. (Contains one figure.) (SLD)

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Enhancing Parent Involvement in Schools: A Large Scale Parent Survey

Prepared for the NCME Annual Meeting

April 1996

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Department of Defense Education Activity
Department of Defense Dependents Schools

Enhancing Parent Involvement in Schools: A Large Scale Parent Survey

Current efforts to improve educational systems worldwide increasingly are focusing on the importance of parent involvement. In fact, one of the Goals 2000 of the U.S. Department of Education states: *By the Year 2000, every school will promote partnerships that will increase parental involvement and participation in promoting the social, emotional, and academic growth of children*. One means of promoting parent involvement in schools is to obtain parent feedback on educational programs. This paper presents the successful approach employed by one school system—the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS)—to obtain and assess feedback from over 100,000 parents through the use of a parent survey.

The purpose of this paper is to present the methodology that has been used over the past five years to develop and implement the DoDDS' Parent Survey, known as the "Report Card from DoDDS Parents." The paper's focus is not the survey results, but rather the *processes and procedures* used to design appropriate instruments, distribute and track surveys on a large scale, and report survey findings to key players in the school system. The following sections describe the project background, survey methodology, and key elements that contribute to the success of the parent survey process.

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

DoDDS is an overseas school system operated under the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) to provide quality education to the children of military personnel. In 1995, nearly 85,000 students from pre-kindergarten through grade 12 attended 190 DoDDS schools worldwide. As a result of military downsizing, student enrollment has decreased from over 140,000 in the early 1990's.

In 1989, DoDDS implemented the Report Card From DoDDS Parents Survey to give parents of students the opportunity to express their opinions regarding the quality of DoDDS curriculum, faculty, administration, and auxiliary services. To assess changes and trends in parent perceptions over time, the survey was administered again in 1991, 1993, and recently in 1995. Results of the biennial survey have contributed to quality assessments, program evaluations, and

planning efforts conducted by DoDDS administrators.

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological process of the DoDDS Parent survey, as illustrated in the Exhibit on the following page, begins with survey instrument development and culminates in the widespread dissemination and application of survey findings. The following sub-sections describe the major survey methodology components, including: survey instrument development; survey distribution, control, and return; and reporting and feedback.

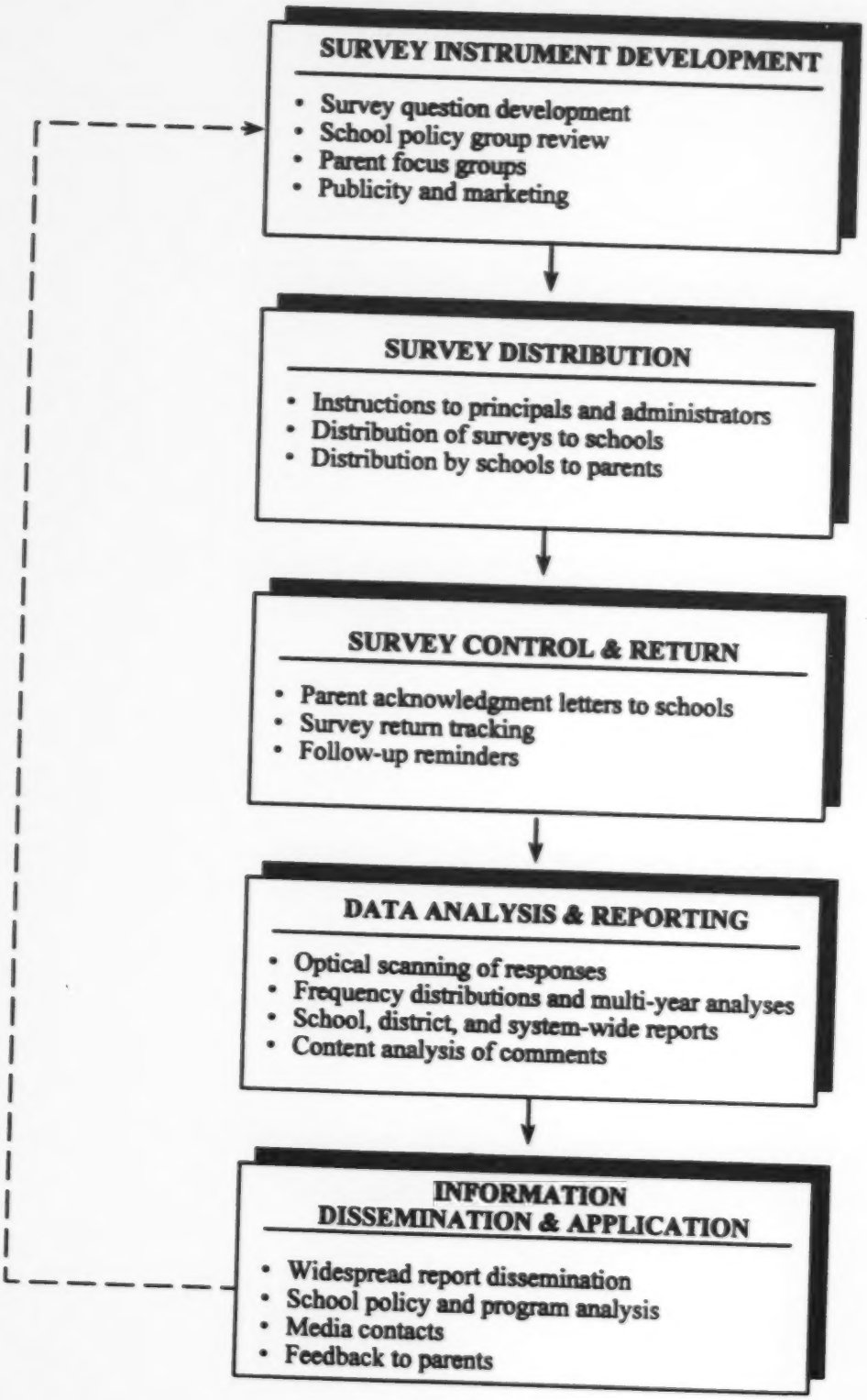
2.1 Survey Instrument Development

The Report Card From DoDDS Parents Survey was designed to capture meaningful information from parents in an easy-to-complete format. To ensure that areas of interest were addressed on the survey instrument and that proposed questions were easily understandable, survey writers solicited input from school administrators and advisory council members and conducted focus groups with parents. Selected items from the annual Gallup Poll on the public's attitudes toward U.S. public schools were included on the DoDDS survey so that comparisons between the perspectives of parents of children attending DoDDS schools abroad and those of parents of students attending schools in the U.S. could be assessed. To allow for trend analyses over time, the questions on the DoDDS survey have remained basically the same over the four survey administrations, with some edits and additions.

The short six-page survey, included in Appendix A, contains 35 questions. Approximately half of the questions are in the form of a grading scale (A,B,C,D, or F) commonly used on student report cards. Survey questions address the following areas:

- Overall quality of DoDDS schools
- Core curriculum and co-curricular activities
- Performance of teachers, principals, and staff
- School/parent interaction and communication

EXHIBIT
DoDDS PARENT SURVEY PROCESS


SURVEY INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT
• Survey question development
• School policy group review
• Parent focus groups
• Publicity and marketing
SURVEY DISTRIBUTION
• Instructions to principals and administrators
• Distribution of surveys to schools
• Distribution by schools to parents
SURVEY CONTROL & RETURN
• Parent acknowledgment letters to schools
• Survey return tracking
• Follow-up reminders
DATA ANALYSIS & REPORTING
• Optical scanning of responses
• Frequency distributions and multi-year analyses
• School, district, and system-wide reports
• Content analysis of comments
INFORMATION DISSEMINATION & APPLICATION
• Widespread report dissemination
• School policy and program analysis
• Media contacts
• Feedback to parents

- School handling of drug and alcohol abuse
- School climate in terms of human/race relations
- Lunch programs and bus services
- Major problem areas in the schools
- Parent and child demographic characteristics.

The final page of the survey allows parents to write additional comments on their child's school or the DoDDS system.

2.2 Survey Distribution, Control, and Return

Parent Surveys are distributed to parents of *all* children enrolled in the DoDDS system. The use of a full census approach, rather than a random sample approach, enhances the role of the survey as an effective tool for communication between parents and the school. The successful promotion of the Parent Survey and a well-orchestrated distribution process have resulted in an impressive return rate of over 50 percent in three of the four survey years.

In the early part of the year of administration (January or February), survey packets equivalent to enrollment plus a slight overage are sent to each of the DoDDS schools. Each packet includes:

- The Report Card From DoDDS Parents Survey
- A letter from the Director of DoDDS encouraging parent participation
- An "Apple Letter" to be sent from parents to their child's school to acknowledge completion of the survey
- A pre-paid business return reply envelope.

Each school principal is responsible for disseminating survey packets to the parents of each child enrolled in his/her school.

Principals promote parent participation through a variety of methods, including letters to

parents, announcements in parent association newsletters, notices posted in community facilities, memorandum from installation commanders, and contests rewarding classes with the highest participation. In advance of the survey distribution, detailed instructions are sent to DoDDS administrators at all levels (i.e., regional directors, district superintendents, and school principals) to guide them through their respective responsibilities in the survey distribution and follow-up processes.

Completed surveys are sent directly from parents to the survey contractor to be scanned. The number of surveys returned from each school is tracked and monitored. During the survey return period, follow-up reminders are issued to schools with return rates of under 60 percent.

2.3 Reporting and Feedback

Data analyses of the large data sets (which have included between 40,000 to 70,000 cases per survey year) are conducted to summarize the survey results in a meaningful, consistent, and accurate manner. After the scanning process, survey data are transferred to statistical databases. These databases are used to generate frequency distributions for all survey item responses, calculate mean Grade Point Averages for selected items, and test the associations between selected items. In addition, trend analyses are conducted to compare current and prior year survey responses.

System-wide responses and trend analyses are presented in a comprehensive report distributed throughout the DoDDS system in the fall or early winter of the year of administration. Through the use of text, charts, and graphics the report describes parent responses to all survey items, highlights differences between different school groups (e.g., small, medium, and large schools), compares the DoDDS results to the results of the Gallup Poll, and summarizes conclusions for the DoDDS system.

In addition to the system-wide report, each principal receives a two-page school report with the survey results for their particular school, as well as the comment pages completed for their school. The school report, generated through an automated computer program, presents

the responses for each question on the survey in an easy-to-read format. Two-page reports also are generated by district and region for the "roll-up" responses for groups of schools. To support comparative analyses, additional reports are generated for selected demographic breakouts, for example, by the child's age, the child's racial/ethnic identification, or the length of attendance at their school. A sample two-page report, generated for the DoDDS system as a whole in 1995, can be found in Appendix B.

School administrators and staff at all levels review the results and identify specific areas to be addressed in future program development. Findings from the system-wide report are then publicly reported through briefings and press releases to various forms of news media, including television, radio and newspaper. To complete the "feedback loop," district superintendents and school principals share local results with parents, teachers, military officials, school advisory committees, and other interested parties. Successful initiatives from schools receiving the highest ratings are shared throughout the system so that future improvements can be achieved in the entire school system.

3. KEY ELEMENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PARENT SURVEY

The DoDDS Parent Report Card Survey has proven to be an effective evaluation tool for collecting parent input on the strengths and weaknesses of the DoDDS system. Several key elements have contributed to the successful application of the survey and its remarkable response rate of approximately half of all parents of students attending the large DoDDS school system. These key elements include:

- Involving *key players* at all levels in the survey process, including instrument design and survey dissemination
- Using simple, *easy-to-complete survey instruments*, accompanied by clear instructions, that are not overly burdensome to parents
- Taking a *census* to ensure each parent's opportunity to participate and to promote the survey effort

- Distributing the survey and disseminating results in a *timely manner* during the school year, so that findings can be assessed and appropriately integrated into educational planning efforts

- Promoting survey participation through *wide-spread publicity* measures

- Effectively reporting *findings* to all interested parties, including parents

- Assuring parents that their *input* is important and that school improvement efforts reflect issues reported in parent survey results.

This survey methodology, used effectively in the DoDDS system, could be adopted by other school systems—large and small—to promote greater parent participation in school assessment efforts.

The DoDDS Parent Survey Project was jointly conducted by the Department of Defense Dependents Schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity and Caliber Associates. The following individuals contributed to this five year effort:

DoDDS

Dr. Denise Borders
Dr. Mary Johnson
Dr. Karla Stark

Caliber Associates

Susan Kerner-Hoeg
Jill Goldman
Rebecca Schaffer

To receive a copy of the *Report Card From DoDDS Parents 1995 Survey Results* or to find out more about DoDDS parent survey efforts, please contact:

Gretchen Ridgeway
Department of Defense Education Activity
4040 Fairfax Drive, 9th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203
(703) 696-4490

For more information about survey methodology, large-scale data analysis, or survey research application, please contact:

Susan Kerner-Hoeg
Caliber Associates
10530 Rosehaven Street, Suite 400
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-385-3200

APPENDIX A
1995 REPORT CARD FROM DoDDS PARENTS SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
1995 REPORT CARD FROM DODDS PARENTS

This survey is part of our continuing efforts to improve our understanding of how well our educational programs are meeting the needs of your child and your family. Please complete a separate questionnaire for each of your children attending a school in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS), and answer all of the questions. *If you wish to comment on any questions or qualify your answers, please use the comments section at the end of the questionnaire.* If you have questions regarding this survey, please direct them to the principal of your child's school or write us at the address below.

Thank you for your participation in this important effort.

Department of Defense, Office of Dependents Schools
Parent Survey Project Officer
4040 North Fairfax Drive, 9th Floor
Arlington, Virginia 22203

124352

DIRECTIONS: Complete a separate questionnaire for each of your children enrolled in a DoD Dependents School. Do not staple, bend, or fold the questionnaire. Do not attach any other school forms to the questionnaire.

MARKING: USE NO. 2 PENCIL ONLY

CORRECT MARKS	INCORRECT MARKS
●●●●	⊗◒⊘⊘

1. From the list below, find the school for which you are completing this questionnaire. Darken the bubble in front of the name of that school. Darken only one bubble.

Legend: **ES** = Elementary School **MS** = Middle School **JHS** = Junior High School **IS** = Intermediate School **HS** = High School

LIST OF DoD DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS

EUROPE

UNITED KINGDOM
- A T Mahan ES
- A T Mahan HS
- Alconbury ES
- Alconbury HS
- Chicksands ES/JHS
- Croughton American ES/HS
- Edzell-Wm F Halsey ES
- Feltwell ES
- Lakenheath ES
- Lakenheath MS
- Lakenheath HS
- Laies ES
- Laies HS
- London Central HS
- Menwith Hill ES/MS
- Upwood ES
- West Ruislip ES

BRUSSELS
- AFCENT ES
- AFCENT HS
- Bitburg ES
- Bitburg MS
- Bitburg HS
- Bonn ES
- Bonn HS
- Brussels ES/HS
- Buechel ES
- Coevorden ES
- Geilenkirchen ES
- Hahn ES
- Kalkar ES
- Kleine Brogel ES
- Moenchengladbach ES
- Noervenich ES
- SHAPE ES
- SHAPE HS
- Spangdahlem ES
- Spangdahlem MS
- Volkel ES

KAISERSLAUTERN
- Bad Kreuznach ES
- Bad Kreuznach HS
- Baumholder HS
- Dexheim ES
- Idar Oberstein ES
- Kaiserslautern ES
- Kaiserslautern MS
- Kaiserslautern HS
- Landstuhl ES/MS
- Neubruecke ES
- Pirmasens ES/MS
- Ramstein ES
- Ramstein JHS
- Ramstein HS
- Sembach ES
- Sembach MS
- Smith ES
- Vogelweh ES
- Wetzel ES

HEIDELBERG
- Augsburg ES
- Augsburg HS
- Bad Aibling ES/HS
- Boeblingen ES
- Garmisch ES
- Heidelberg MS
- Heidelberg HS
- Karlsruhe ES
- Karlsruhe HS
- Mannheim ES
- Mannheim MS
- Mannheim HS
- Mark Twain ES
- Memmingen ES
- Patch ES
- Patch HS
- Patrick Henry ES
- Robinson Barracks ES/MS
- Worms ES

WUERZBERG
- Amberg ES
- Ansbach ES
- Ansbach HS
- Bad Kissingen ES
- Bamberg ES
- Bamberg HS
- Grafenwoehr ES
- Hohenfels ES
- Kitzingen ES
- Illesheim ES/MS
- Nuernberg ES
- Nuernberg MS/HS
- Rainbow ES
- Regensburg ES
- Schweinfurt ES
- Schweinfurt JHS
- Vilseck ES
- Vilseck HS
- Wuerzburg ES
- Wuerzburg MS
- Wuerzburg HS

HANAU
- Arnold HS
- Argonner ES
- Aschaffenburg ES/MS
- Atterberry ES
- Aukamm ES
- Babenhausen ES
- Bad Nauheim ES
- Buedingen ES
- Butzbach ES
- Darmstadt ES
- Darmstadt JHS
- Frankfurt ES
- Frankfurt MS
- Frankfurt HS
- Gelnhausen ES
- Giessen ES
- Giessen HS
- Hainerberg ES
- Halvorsen Tunner ES/MS
- Hanau MS
- Hanau HS
- Mainz ES
- Sportfield ES
- Wiesbaden MS

MEDITERRANEAN
- Ankara ES/HS
- Aviano ES
- Aviano HS
- Bahrain ES/HS
- Gaeta ES/JHS
- Incirlik ES
- Incirlik HS
- Izmir ES/HS
- La Maddalena ES
- Livorno ES
- Livorno HS
- Naples ES
- Naples HS
- Pordenone ES
- Rota ES
- Rota HS
- Sevilla ES
- Sigonella ES/HS
- Vajont ES
- Verona ES
- Vicenza ES
- Vicenza HS

PACIFIC

OKINAWA
- Bechtel ES
- Earhart JS
- Hope Primary School
- Kadena ES
- Kadena MS
- Kadena HS
- Killin ES
- Kinser ES
- Kubasaki HS
- Lester MS
- Stearley Heights ES
- Zukeran ES

KOREA
- Joy ES
- Osan ES
- Puson ES/HS
- Seoul ES
- Seoul HS
- Taegu ES/HS

JAPAN
- Amn ES
- Byrd ES
- Cummings ES
- Darby ES
- Edgren HS
- King ES/HS
- Kinnick HS
- Lanham ES
- Perry ES
- Perry HS
- Sollars ES
- Sullivans ES
- Yokota East ES
- Yokota West ES
- Yokota HS
- Zama HS

PANAMA/ISLANDS

- [illegible] ES
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- Curundu ES
- [illegible]
- Ft Clayton ES
- [illegible]
- Ft Kobbe ES
- [illegible]
- R B Chatree ES/HS
- W T Simpson ES
- [illegible]

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2. What is your child's grade for which this questionnaire is being completed? (Mark only one.)

○ Pre K	○ 6
○ K	○ 7
○ 1	○ 8
○ 2	○ 9
○ 3	○ 10
○ 4	○ 11
○ 5	○ 12

3. How long has your child attended this school? (Count this school year as 1 year.)

○ 1 year
○ 2 years
○ 3 years
○ 4 years or more

Students are often given grades A, B, C, D, or F to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the schools were graded in the same way. For items 4 - 18 below, which of the following grades best represents your view of the education your child is receiving at this school?

A-Excellent B-Good C-Satisfactory D-Poor F-Fail N/A-Not Applicable or No Information

	A	B	C	D	F	N/A
4. Reading, English, Language Arts	○	○	○	○	○	○
5. Mathematics	○	○	○	○	○	○
6. Science	○	○	○	○	○	○
7. Social Studies	○	○	○	○	○	○
8. Grade the co-curricular activities (music, sports, clubs, pep groups); provided by the school to meet the needs of your child. (Complete for grades 4-12.)	○	○	○	○	○	○
9. Grade the counseling and guidance services provided by the school. (Grade individual counseling for all grades. For grades 9-12, also consider how well your child is assisted with selection of programs or courses, career, and/or college admission.)	○	○	○	○	○	○
10. Grade how well the teacher(s) meet(s) your child's needs.	○	○	○	○	○	○
11. Grade the school lunch program.	○	○	○	○	○	○
12. Grade the quality of the school communications (newsletters, handbooks, open house, etc.).	○	○	○	○	○	○
13. Grade the promptness, courtesy, and responsiveness of the school staff when you contact the school.	○	○	○	○	○	○
14. Grade how well the school principal meets the needs of your school community.	○	○	○	○	○	○
15. Grade how well the district superintendent meets the needs of your school community.	○	○	○	○	○	○
16. Grade the confidence you have in the school to help prepare your child for the future.	○	○	○	○	○	○
17. Grade the overall quality of the school your child attends.	○	○	○	○	○	○
18. Grade the public schools of the United States as a whole.	○	○	○	○	○	○

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19. To what extent do you use the following to get information about your child's DoDDS school? Use the scale below. (Fill in one bubble for each item.)

	Very Great Extent	Great Extent	Moderate Extent	Slight Extent	Not at All
A) Newspaper/radio/television	○	○	○	○	○
B) Student/student's work	○	○	○	○	○
C) Parent-teacher communications and conferences	○	○	○	○	○
D) School newsletters	○	○	○	○	○
E) Parent-teacher organizations (e.g., PTSA)	○	○	○	○	○
F) Other adults in community	○	○	○	○	○

20. To what degree does your child's school attempt to attract parent participation in school affairs?

○ A great deal
○ A fair amount
○ Not very much
○ None at all
○ No information

21. Since your arrival has your child's school improved, stayed about the same, or become worse?

○ Improved
○ Stayed about the same
○ Become worse
○ No information

22. How would you describe the human/race relations climate in your child's school?

○ Excellent
○ Good
○ Satisfactory
○ Poor
○ No opinion

23. How much confidence do you have in your child's school to deal with drug abuse?

○ A great deal
○ A fair amount
○ Not very much
○ None at all
○ I don't know

24. How much confidence do you have in your child's school to deal with alcohol abuse?

○ A great deal
○ A fair amount
○ Not very much
○ None at all
○ I don't know

25. What are the major problems with which your child's school must deal?

Mark all problems that apply:

- ○ Lack of proper financial support
- ○ Lack of bus discipline
- ○ Difficulty getting good teachers
- ○ Lack of continuity in staff
- ○ Poor curriculum/poor standards
- ○ Lack of continuity in programs
- ○ Use of drugs
- ○ Drinking/alcoholism
- ○ Crime/vandalism
- ○ Control of access to school grounds
- ○ Lack of needed teachers
- ○ Lack of respect for teachers/other students
- ○ Lack of overall discipline
- ○ Fighting on school property
- ○ Problems with the lunch program
- ○ Lack of teacher training in current educational practices
- ○ Lack of proper school facilities
- ○ Problems with school administration
- ○ Need more college preparation courses
- ○ Lack of special education programs
- ○ Communications problems
- ○ Need more programs to increase parental involvement
- ○ Lack of parent interest/involvement in school activities
- ○ Problems with the military community
- ○ Lack of talented and gifted programs
- ○ Lack of after-school programs
- ○ Proper instructional materials are not available
- ○ Other

- ○ None; there are no major problems at my child's school

26. Which of the following statements best describes the bus service at your child's school?

- ○ There is no bus service (Go to Question 27.)
- ○ Bus service is available, and there are no problems with it (Go to Question 27.)
- ○ Bus service is available, but there are problems with it

Mark the problem areas:

- ○ Safety of students
- ○ Driver's ability to speak and understand English
- ○ Student behavior
- ○ Reliability of bus schedule
- ○ Other

27. Which of the following statements best describes the lunch program at your child's school?

- ○ No school lunch program (Go to Question 29.)
- ○ Snack foods (Go to Question 28.)
- ○ A cold lunch program (Go to Question 28.)
- ○ A hot lunch program (Go to Question 28.)

28. Grade the following areas of your child's school lunch program.

	A	B	C	D	F
A) Menu selection and balance	○	○	○	○	○
B) Preparation of food	○	○	○	○	○
C) Cost of lunch	○	○	○	○	○
D) Quantity of food	○	○	○	○	○
E) Information about program and menus	○	○	○	○	○

29. What effect has the downsizing of the military had on DoDDS' ability to provide a quality education *for your child?*

- ○ Strong positive effect
- ○ Somewhat positive effect
- ○ No effect
- ○ Somewhat negative effect
- ○ Strong negative effect

32. What is the service of your child's sponsor?

- ○ Army
- ○ Navy
- ○ Air Force
- ○ Marine Corps
- ○ Coast Guard
- ○ My child's sponsor is not a military servicemember

The following background information is needed for reporting sample characteristics.

30. What is the racial background/ancestry or origin of your child?

- ○ White, not Hispanic/Spanish
- ○ Black, not Hispanic/Spanish
- ○ Hispanic/Spanish
- ○ Asian/Pacific Islander/Filipino
- ○ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ○ Biracial (any two above)
- ○ Multiracial (any 3 or 4 above)
- ○ Other

31. Which of the following best describes the current work status of your child's sponsor? (Mark only one.)

- ○ Military servicemember
- ○ U.S. government civilian
- ○ Private enterprise civilian
- ○ Other

33. What is the present pay grade of your child's sponsor? (If both parents/guardians are servicemembers, mark the higher pay grade.)

- ○ Enlisted (E1-E4)
- ○ Enlisted (E5-E9)
- ○ Warrant Officer (W1-W4)
- ○ Commissioned Officer (01-03)
- ○ Commissioned Officer (04-07+)
- ○ My child's sponsor is not a military servicemember

34. How many children do you have attending a DoDDS school?

- ○ 1 child
- ○ 2 children
- ○ 3 children
- ○ 4 children
- ○ More than 4 children

35. Did you complete a 1993 Report Card from DoDDS Parents questionnaire asking parents their views on education topics and schools in DoDDS?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

COMMENTS

The space below is provided to clarify any of your responses or to make any comments regarding your opinions of DoDDS. You may also write additional comments on a separate sheet of paper and return it with this questionnaire. Do not staple the extra sheet to the questionnaire. Write the name of your child's school on any additional sheet(s). This comment sheet will be returned to your child's school principal a few months after reviewing and summarizing the overall comments for the systemwide report.

Mark here if you are using the Comments Section. ○

Write in the name of your child's school and grade on the lines below.

SCHOOL NAME _____

CHILD'S GRADE _____

Please mark the topic(s) you have commented on:

- ○ Overall DoDDS System
- ○ Curriculum
- ○ Standards
- ○ Co-Curricular Activities
- ○ Special Programs
- ○ Teachers
- ○ Principals
- ○ Other Staff
- ○ School Communication
- ○ Class Size
- ○ Facilities
- ○ Lunch Program
- ○ Bus Service
- ○ Discipline Issues
- ○ Other

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APPENDIX B
SAMPLE TWO-PAGE SURVEY FINDINGS REPORT

2. What is your child's grade for which this questionnaire is being completed?

Pre-Kindergarten	1%
Kindergarten	11%
1st Grade	12%
2nd Grade	11%
3rd Grade	11%
4th Grade	10%
5th Grade	9%
6th Grade	9%
7th Grade	7%
8th Grade	6%
9th Grade	4%
10th Grade	4%
11th Grade	3%
12th Grade	3%
Responses	43104

3. How long has your child attended this school? (Count this school year as 1 year.)

1 year	46%
2 years	30%
3 years	16%
4 years or more	8%
Responses	42158

Grade the following aspects of your child's school using these grades: A = Excellent; B = Good; C = Satisfactory; D = Poor; F = Fail; NA = Not Applicable/No Information.

		A	B	C	D	F	NA	Resp
4.	Reading, English, Lang. Arts	32%	43%	18%	4%	1%	3%	43312
5.	Mathematics	31%	41%	18%	5%	1%	3%	43312
6.	Science	23%	39%	22%	5%	1%	9%	43164
7.	Social Studies	23%	40%	22%	4%	1%	10%	42587
8.	Co-curricular activities	22%	34%	25%	11%	4%	4%	23730
9.	Counseling/Guidance	18%	28%	22%	8%	3%	21%	40968
10.	Teachers	34%	37%	21%	6%	2%	0%	42956
11.	School lunch program	7%	21%	28%	14%	10%	22%	42979
12.	School communications	35%	38%	20%	5%	1%	0%	43328
13.	Staff	39%	36%	17%	5%	2%	2%	43342
14.	Principal	27%	36%	20%	5%	3%	8%	43193
15.	District Superintendent	11%	26%	21%	5%	3%	35%	42682
16.	Child's preparation	22%	39%	26%	9%	3%	1%	43294
17.	Overall quality*	22%	44%	25%	6%	2%	0%	43274
18.	Public schools overall	4%	25%	40%	15%	3%	12%	43019

* Overall Quality Average: (A = 4; B = 3; C = 2; D = 1; F = 0)	1993	1995	Change
	2.76	2.80	1%

19. To what extent do you use the following to get information about your child's school?

		Very Great	Great	Moderate	Slight	Not at all	Resp
A)	News media	6%	17%	29%	27%	21%	42985
B)	Student/student's work	34%	43%	17%	4%	1%	42980
C)	Student's teacher	26%	36%	26%	10%	3%	42925
D)	School newsletter	33%	41%	20%	5%	1%	43051
E)	PTSA	7%	18%	29%	22%	24%	42855
F)	Other adults	5%	18%	34%	28%	15%	42851

20. To what degree does your child's school attempt to attract parent participation in school affairs?

A great deal	35%
A fair amount	46%
Not very much	16%
None at all	2%
No information	1%
Responses	43391

21. Since your arrival has your child's school improved, stayed about the same, or become worse?

Improved	23%
Stayed about the same	63%
Become worse	8%
No information	5%
Responses	43410

22. How would you describe the human/race relations climate in your child's school?

Excellent	25%
Good	43%
Satisfactory	21%
Poor	6%
No opinion	5%
Responses	43356

23. How much confidence do you have in your child's school to deal with drug abuse?

A great deal	37%
A fair amount	40%
Not very much	9%
None at all	2%
I don't know	12%
Responses	43310

24. How much confidence do you have in your child's school to deal with alcohol abuse?

A great deal	33%
A fair amount	40%
Not very much	11%
None at all	3%
I don't know	14%
Responses	43373

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25. Do you feel that the following are problems at your child's school?

	No	Yes	Resp
Lack of proper financial support	85%	15%	43563
Lack of bus discipline	76%	24%	43563
Difficulty getting good teachers	80%	20%	43563
Lack of continuity in staff	90%	10%	43563
Poor curriculum/poor standards	89%	11%	43563
Lack of continuity in programs	93%	7%	43563
Use of drugs	96%	4%	43563
Drinking/alcoholism	95%	5%	43563
Crime/vandalism	92%	8%	43563
Control of access to school grounds	91%	9%	43563
Lack of needed teachers	85%	15%	43563
Disrespect for teachers/other students	79%	21%	43563
Lack of overall discipline	86%	14%	43563
Fighting on school property	90%	10%	43563
Problems with the lunch program	73%	27%	43563
Lack of teacher training	93%	7%	43563
Lack of proper school facilities	87%	13%	43563
Problems with school administration	93%	7%	43563
Need more college preparation courses	94%	6%	43563
Lack of special education programs	92%	8%	43563
Communication problems	90%	10%	43563
Programs to increase parental involvement	82%	18%	43563
Lack of parent interest/involvement	76%	24%	43563
Problems with the military community	95%	5%	43563
Lack of talented and gifted programs	73%	27%	43563
Lack of after-school programs	77%	23%	43563
Lack of instructional materials	94%	6%	43563
Other	94%	6%	43563
There are no major problems	82%	18%	43563

26a. Which of the following statements best describes the bus service at your child's school?

There is no bus service	11%
Bus service is available, no problems	39%
Bus service is available, there are problems	50%
Responses	38630

26b. Do you feel that the following are problems with the bus service at your child's school?

	No	Yes	Resp
Safety of students	76%	24%	19201
Driver's ability to speak and understand English	55%	45%	19201
Student behavior	34%	66%	19201
Reliability of bus schedule	87%	13%	19201
Other	82%	18%	19201

27. Which of the following statements best describes the lunch program at your child's school?

No school lunch program	14%
Snack foods	3%
A cold lunch program	5%
A hot lunch program	78%
Responses	39738

28. Grade the following aspects of your child's school lunch program:

	A	B	C	D	F	Resp
A) Menu selection and balance	12%	33%	34%	13%	7%	32972
B) Preparation of food	11%	35%	35%	12%	6%	32457
C) Cost of lunch	14%	28%	32%	16%	11%	32795
D) Quantity of food	11%	30%	34%	16%	9%	32656
E) Information about program and menus	19%	31%	28%	14%	9%	32847

29. What effect has the downsizing of the military had on DoDDS' ability to provide a quality education for your child?

Strong positive effect	5%
Somewhat positive effect	11%
No effect	47%
Somewhat negative effect	30%
Strong negative effect	8%
Responses	42295

30. What is the racial background/ancestry or origin of your child?

White, not Hispanic/Spanish	53%
Black, not Hispanic/Spanish	14%
Hispanic/Spanish	7%
Asian/Pacific Islander/Filipino	8%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%
Biracial (any of two above)	13%
Multiracial (any 3 or 4 above)	3%
Other	3%
Responses	41820

31. Which of the following best describes the current work status of your child's sponsor?

Military servicemember	86%
U.S. government civilian	12%
Private enterprise civilian	2%
Other	1%
Responses	43318

32. What is the service of your child's sponsor?

Army	35%
Navy	12%
Air Force	34%
Marine Corps	6%
Coast Guard	0%
Not a military servicemember	14%
Responses	43222

33. What is the present pay grade of your child's sponsor?

Enlisted (E1-E4)	4%
Enlisted (E5-E9)	61%
Warrant Officer (W1-W4)	3%
Commissioned Officer (O1-O3)	5%
Commissioned Officer (O4-O7+)	12%
Not a military servicemember	14%
Responses	43013

34. How many children do you have attending a DoDDS school?

1 child	31%
2 children	47%
3 children	17%
4 children	4%
More than 4 children	1%
Responses	43292

35. Did you complete a 1993 Report Card From DoDDS Parents Questionnaire?

Yes	43%
No	57%
Responses	42926

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS:	43563
RESPONSE RATE (% OF MARCH 1995 ENROLLMENT):	52%